

## Mid-Summer Cabin Coalition Update

In my early June email, I noted that Casey Shaffer has assumed all cabin administrative responsibilities on the Mountaintop Ranger District. After giving her a few weeks to become accustomed to her new role, I asked if she'd like to send a note along to the recreation residence permittees on the Forest. [Attached to this email is the Improvement Request policy referenced in her note.] Here's her note:

Greetings,

I grew up in Big Bear, graduated from High School in 2006. I then attended college at CSU, Chico and graduated with my Bachelor's in Science with an option in Organismal, Evolutionary and Ecological biology. I moved back home to be closer to family and started working with the Forest Service in 2016 at the Big Bear Discovery Center, where I worked at the front desk for 2 years. In 2018, I started a Special Uses internship and began working closely with Scott Evans as a Permit Administrator. I was hired as a permanent Forest Service employee in June 2020. I am happy to be serving the forest I grew up in.

Improvement Requests -- We do have a backlog of permits due to working remotely and I will process those as quickly as I am able to. Scott had some pending that he has passed onto me. Please submit maintenance proposals early so our office has plenty of time to process and approve them before you want to begin work and keep in mind the proposal policy and submission period. I am attaching the formal improvement request policy for the Mountaintop District as it may not be available to many permittees. I will work to process requests as soon as time allows after they're received and appreciate your patience.

Contacting Me -- Email is the preferred way to contact me

[[casey.shaffer@usda.gov](mailto:casey.shaffer@usda.gov)]. Especially since all our offices are still closed due to COVID-19. We are all working remotely and have no return to work date yet.

However, folks are able to leave a voice message on my desk phone 909-382-2872 and I will call back when I am able. As soon as I have a government cell phone I will share the phone number.

Forest Service Offices -- As you may remember, we are moving the District offices to the Big Bear Discovery Center once renovations are complete. At this time, the projected move in date is September or later depending on COVID.

I look forward to working with you,

Casey Shaffer  
Special Uses  
909-382-2872

Here are a couple more updates:

**National Forest Homeowners Virtual Conference** – NFH has canceled their

2020 Conference and will instead hold a virtual conference on October 15-16 which will be FREE to all NFH members. I'll send along the details as they become available.

**SBNF Cabin Coalition Summer Meeting** – When I last wrote there was some glimmer of hope that we'd be able to hold an in-person summer meeting. With the current spike in COVID-19, that no longer is realistic or safe. Since we're all become experts [?] in Zoom, I'd like your input as to the usefulness of holding our own Zoom Summer Meeting sometime in August and the topics you'd like to see covered in such a meeting.

That's it for this short update. I hope that you and your families are staying safe and taking this opportunity to "socially distance" at your cabins if that feels comfortable. However, I'd note that Big Bear is seeing its own modest increase in COVID, so let's not burden the systems and services local residents rely on.

Be safe and wear those masks!

Roy

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